

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to include suggested headings. A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is also submitted herein.

Claims 14-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 are herein canceled without prejudice and new claims 14-26 are added for examination. New claims 14-26 are believed to be clear from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not believed to add any new matter.

Claims 5, 11, and 12 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as improper multiple dependent claims. Newly added claims 14-26 have been written to no longer recite any improper multiple dependencies, and thus that objection is believed to be overcome by the present response.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 2,693,165 to Appleman. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Appleman in view of U.S. patent 3,421,474 to Demi. Those rejections are traversed by the present response as discussed next.

As noted above previously pending claims 1-13 are herein canceled without prejudice and new claims 14-26 are presented for examination. New claims 14-26 are believed to positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

New independent claim 14 is directed to a luminous turning button for an electric circuit. With reference to the figures in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a handle 20 is mounted to pivot about an axis X to actuate at least one electric switch unit 12 and that is illuminated by a light source S substantially disposed along the axis X. The handle 20 includes a cap 22 forming a disk 22B and a gripping tab 22A that protrudes in a

diametral plane and delimits an internal hollow space 23. A light diffuser element 30 is housed in the handle and extends into the internal hollow space 23 of the cap 22, and conducts the light originating from the light source S from beneath an integrated mechanical base 21 made of opaque material to the internal hollow space 23 of the tab 22A. Further, the cap 22 is made of translucent or transparent material and is capable of allowing light to travel to the outside, and the cap covers the integrated mechanical base 21.

Applicants respectfully submit the applied art at least fails to disclose or suggest the specific above-noted structure of a light diffuser element housed in the handle and extending into the internal hollow space of the cap. That is, in the claims as written, and with reference to the figures in the present specification as a non-limiting example, the luminous turning button includes a cap 22 that forms a hollow internal space 23 into which a light diffuser element 30 extends.

The outstanding rejection relies on Appleman to disclose in Figure 2 a cap forming a disk 45 and a gripping tab, and to additionally include a light diffuser element 51. However, as is believed to be clear from the figures in Appleman, that noted light diffuser element 51 is actually a plurality of concentric serrations 51 on a surface of a translucent light-diffusing member 50, which appears to be the outer surface of the indicating device in Appleman.¹

Thereby, applicants respectfully submit that noted structure in Appleman does not correspond to the claimed features in which a *light diffuser element is housed to extend into a hollow internal space* of the claimed cap.

Thereby, applicants respectfully submit new independent claim 14, and new claims 15-26 dependent therefrom, positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by Appleman.

¹ Appleman at col. 3, lines 4-13 and col. 4, lines 23-25.

Applicants also draw attention to further dependent claims that clarify features of the light diffuser, such as dependent claims 16 and 18, which recite additional features of the light diffusers, which are believed to even further distinguish over the noted element 51 in Appleman.

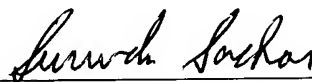
Moreover, applicants submit no disclosure in Demi were cited with respect to the above-noted features of the light diffuser and cap, and no disclosures in Demi are believed to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Appleman.

In view of the present response applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written are allowable over the previously applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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